



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

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- November Program
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- Treasurer's Report

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

How's DX? Not very good in my back yard. When it's a struggle to make a 15m contest exchange with an F or DL, something's amiss. Or is it? The old saying that when one door closes another opens might be a fitting sentiment when it comes to our lack of high band openings. Low band propagation is that open door. I've engineered my station and antennas with focus on the higher bands and now it's past time to get busy on tall vertical wires and radials. Low band pre-amps and antennas should be on all of our Christmas wish lists.

Your club officers did realize and discuss the date of our upcoming meeting coinciding with election night but decided to go ahead with it. The program topic will surely keep people's minds off the election - Steve AG4W has been working on moonbounce. His efforts of engineering and re-engineering his station should be both entertaining and informative.

We'll also hold our own election with only write-in candidates. Think about who you'd vote for DX'er of the Year and we'll surprise the lucky winner with a nice Plaque next month.

A new IARU Region 2 Band Plan was released on October 14, 2016. A quick read of the summary page mentions "Delegates to the 19th International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU-R2) General Assembly in mid-October adopted ARRL-proposed changes to

the Region 2 (the Americas) band plan" (and "To the extent possible, this band plan is harmonized with those of the other regions." Sadly our requested exclusive NADXC 75m phone frequency was not listed.

Even with poor propagation there's still life on the bands. Was tuning across 20m one night and mention of the TS-990 caused me to stop the dial and read the mail. Looked the guy up on QRZ and found we had a lot in common - the same radio, the same vintage Murch tuner, and he was a past president of the North California DX Club, NCDXC. When he concluded the QSO, I called and introduced myself. A few days following that lengthy & most enjoyable QSO a large envelope with his QSL card and a photo reprint of the tuner manual arrived in the mail. Now that Hamfest purchased tuner can be restored to it's original configuration - and fix the interconnects that literally melted in last month's CQWW RTTY.

Next month's meeting is our Christmas party. Next month's meeting is at Terranova's. Next month's meeting is ONE WEEK AHEAD of the normally scheduled meeting. Next month's meeting is when we'll award the DX'er of the Year plaque. Please join us for a night of good food and camaraderie with friends & spouses.

73,

Mark N4BCD

To the Moon and Back-The First QSO

By Steve Werner, AG4W

The devil makes work for idle hands. Steve doesn't need to worry about the devil as he shoots holes through the ionosphere. Come hear about what led to his first few EME contacts. Dinner at about 6:00pm (after voting) at the Golden Corral, meeting at 7:00, and Steve's program thereafter. See you there!



October Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

North Alabama DX Club Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2016

Members attending 22, Guests 0

Announcements

This is our "annual meeting" to elect officers, review the past year, and to "conduct other such business."

Our meeting program topics over the past 12 months have been:

Oct 2015 A QSK design change
for Ameritron amplifier **Steve AG4W**

Nov 2015 Design & construction
of 5-bank Hex-beam **Rob N4WGY**

Dec 2015 Christmas Party at
Terranova's

DXer of the Year was awarded to Bill
KD8IGK

Jan 2016 Baluns **Bob K8KI**

Feb 2016 (meeting cancelled
due to risk of bad weather)

Mar 2016 Video: 1996 DXpedi-
tion to Heard Island VK0IR
Wayne K4TTZ

Apr 2016 JT-65 and other weak-
signal modes for DX'ing **Rob KB5EZ**

May 2016 His latest homebrew
wire antenna **Warren KJ4RAQ**

Jun 2016 Dayton Hamvention
Stories **Roundtable**

Jul 2016 Summer time Radio
Field Operation adventures
Craig NM4T

Aug 2016 New 80m 4-square
and other antenna projects

Tim AB4B

The Club hosted another successful DX Banquet at the Hamfest with Craig Thompson K9CT as our speaker. The net balance of banquet expenses was - \$66.

Sep 2016 Receiver Audio Perfor-
mance **Bob K8KI**

Tom KG4CUY reported that the HARC auction was fabulous. There were some good finds by some DX Club members and others.

Treasurer's Report

The bank balance is \$4,715.84.

Membership Applications

One application: Randy Reuhmler KK4OVW from Tennessee, but is often in the Huntsville area on business, was voted into membership. Congratulations, Randy!

Old Business

DXpedition Funding. Last month funding for Bouvet was discussed, and it was agreed that a more significant level of support would be appropriate. After some very thoughtful discussion, the club voted to send a \$1000 check to the Bouvet DXpedition now, with the intent of providing more in the coming months. Bob K8KI suggested holding the bank balance at no less than \$3500 to cover ~\$2500 in Hamfest Banquet expenses and ~\$1000 for any other expenses that may arise. The \$1000 for Bouvet would include \$145 from individual check & PayPal donations, and \$855 from the treasury. The PayPal donation button will remain on our Club web page for members to use to make earmarked donations toward this #2 most-wanted dxpedition.

A funding request for VP6EU Pitcairn Island (#51 most-wanted) was reviewed and tabled by the membership.

New Business

Next month we will vote on the DXer of the Year.

Terranova's has been booked for the Christmas Party again. Unfortunately, our usual night (the second Tuesday of the month) had already been booked.

Our booking has been moved to December 6, a week earlier than usual. Arrive by 6:00 for some social time followed by dinner from their menu.

The nominating committee made their report. John Stensby N5DF accepted the nomination for the vacated Vice-President's spot. With no objections and no additional nominations, officers for 2017 were elected:

President, **Mark Brown N4BCD**

Vice-President, **John Stensby N5DF**

Secretary/Treasurer

Kelley Johns W4VPZ

At-Large Director, **Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI**

At-Large Director, **Tom Duncan KG4CUY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jim N4KH presented a program on "DX Spotting, Tips and Tools"

Recent DX Worked

Bob K8KI Sao Tome

John N5DF Sao Tome

AI W4ABW E51Q, 5AIAL,
D66D, 7Y9GH, VK9NZ, S9WL, T31T,
5U7RK

Tim AB4B S9YY 80m CW

Rob KB5EZ ATNO's:

Greenland, Market Reef, St. Paul Is.,
Pitcairn Is., Norfolk Is., Comoros

Johnny KR4F T31T on 12m CW

Jim N4KH T31T, SV2ASP, H40GC

Mark N4BCD D66D Como-
ros Is., E2E (Thailand) 15m RTTY,
VK9NZ

Bruce AC4G H44GC,
H40GC (9 bands), VK9NZ, T31T, D66D,
A5A, S9YY

Stephen KK4TJP C9, VP6, ZD7,
OH0 (three are ATNO's)

DX Contests for November

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Ukrainian DX Contest (CW, SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 5, 1200Z to Nov. 6, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial or Oblast #
See page 94, Nov. QST or urdx.org/rules.php?english

DARC Ten Meter Digital Contest, (DIG), 10 meters

Nov. 6, 1100Z to Nov. 6, 1700Z
Exchange: RST plus serial number
See page 94, Nov. QST or www.darc.de

WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 12, 0000Z to Nov. 13, 2400Z
Exchange: RST plus serial number (see rules for QTC)
See page 94, Nov. QST and www.waedc.de/referate

Japan Int'l DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 12, 0700Z to Nov. 13, 1300Z (48 hours)
Exchange: RS plus CQ zone; JAs send prefecture
See page 94, Nov. QST and www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html

OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 160-10 meters

Nov. 12, 1200Z to Nov. 13, 1200Z
Exchange: RST plus serial number or OK/OM district
See page 94, Nov. QST and www.okomdx.crk.cz

ARRL EME contest, (CW/DIG/SSB), 50-1296

Nov. 19, 0000Z to Nov. 20, 2359Z
Exchange: Signal report
See page 94, Nov. QST or www.arrl.org/eme-contest-1

LZ DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 19, 1200Z to Nov. 20, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone or LZ district
See page 94, Nov. QST and www.lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html

All Austria 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Nov. 19, 1600Z to Nov. 20, 0700Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial Nr. (OEs send district)
See: page 94, Nov. QST and www.oevsv.at/

CQ Worldwide CW, (CW), 160-10 meters

Nov. 26, 0000Z to Nov. 27, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus CQ zone
See page 94, Oct. QST and www.cqww.com/rules.html

ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 2, 2200Z to Dec. 4, 1600Z
Exchange: RST plus Section
See: www.arrl.org/160-meter

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB/CW), 10 meters

Dec. 10, 0000Z to Dec. 11, 2400Z
Exchange: RST plus State/ Prov.; DX sends RST + S.N.
See: www.arrl.org/10-meter

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Have fun!

Chuck, N4NM

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

Treasurer's Report for October

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

Beginning Balance.....\$ 4,715.84

Pavilion Rental*\$ 150.00

Deposits & Credits

Ending Balance \$ 4,538.62

Bank Fee Refund \$ 76.55

*Two years of pavilion rentals. Reimbursement was overlooked last year.

Withdrawals

Check Order \$ 76.55

Picnic Supplies..... \$ 27.22

NADXC Officers and Directors

President **Mark Brown, N4BCD**

Vice President **Jim Spikes, N4KH**

Secretary/ **Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ**

Treasurer

At-large **Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI**

Directors **Tom Duncan, KG4CUY**